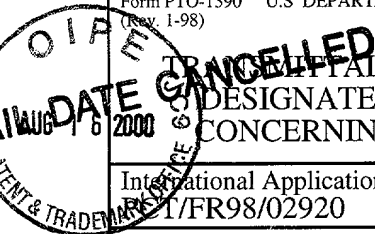


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Form PTO-1390 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (Rev. 1-98)

Attorney's Docket Number  
16721-0024

**NOTICE TO THE UNITED STATES  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)  
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

U.S. Application No.  
(if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)  
**09/622448**

International Application No.  
PCT/FR98/02920

International Filing Date  
03.12.98 (Dec. 3, 1998)

Priority Date Claimed  
17.2.98 (Feb. 17, 1998)

Title of Invention:

**USE OF A COMPOSITION OR PREMIX BASED ON VOLATILE CORROSION INHIBITORS,  
COMPOSITION OR PREMIX, ARTICLES CONTAINING THIS COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR  
PREPARING THE SAME**

Applicant(s) for DO/EO/US  
SCHAPIRA, Joseph; DRONIOU, Patrick; GUILLOU, Loic; STOIANOVICI, Gabriela;  
DELALANDE, Patrick

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
  - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
  - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☒ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☒ A translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

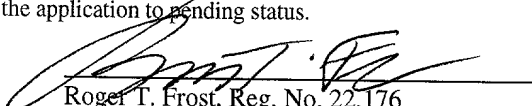
Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A FIRST preliminary amendment.  
☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☐ Other items or information:

Express Mail Label No. EL561433188US

Date: August 15, 2000

Page 1 of 2

U.S. Application No. <b>09/622448</b> <small>(known, see 37 CFR 1.5)</small>		International Application No. PCT/FR98/02920		Attorney's Docket Number 16721-0024	
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:  <b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):</b>  Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO ....\$970.00  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO .....\$840.00  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO .....\$760.00  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) .....\$670.00  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$96.00  <b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>				<b>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</b>	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$ 840	
				\$ 130	
Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate		
Total claims	10 - 20 =		x 18.00	\$ ----	
Independent Claims	1- 3 =		x 78.00	\$ ----	
Multiple Dependent Claims (if applicable)			+ 260.00	\$ ---	
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				\$ 970	
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				\$ -	
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				\$ 970	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$ ---	
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>				\$ 970	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$ ---	
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>				\$ 970	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				charged:	\$
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$970 to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. 10-1215 in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 10-1215. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Roger T. Frost, Esq. FROST & ASKEW, LLP 100 Monarch Tower, 3424 Peachtree Road, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30326 Telephone: 404-949-2400 Form PTO-1390 (Rev. 1-98) adapted					
				 Roger T. Frost, Reg. No. 22,176	
Page 2 of 2					

534 Rec'd PCT/PTO 15 AUG 2000 PATENTS  
D TRADEMARK OFFICE

**EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL561433188US**  
**Date: August 15, 2000**

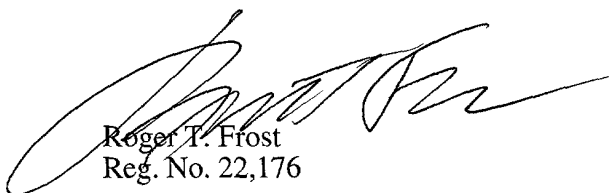
**REMARKS**

The foregoing amendments are made to the modified claims as presented in the report of the International Preliminary Examination.

These amendments remove all multiple dependencies from the claims, including certain dependencies that may be indefinite according to U.S. practice. The amendments thus place all claims in condition for examination on the merits, and avoid the need for paying the surcharge for submitting a multiple-dependent claim.

The applicants request entry of this amendment before calculating the total amount of filing fee, and await examination in due course.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger T. Frost  
Reg. No. 22,176

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J&A Docket: 16721-0024

USE OF A COMPOSITION OR PREMIX BASED ON VOLATILE  
CORROSION INHIBITORS, COMPOSITION OR PREMIX,  
5 ARTICLES CONTAINING THIS COMPOSITION AND  
METHOD FOR PREPARING THE SAME

The invention concerns the use of a composition or premix based on volatile corrosion inhibitors for limiting to a maximum the degradation or release of volatile corrosion inhibitors during the preparation of the said composition.

It also concerns a composition or premix based on volatile corrosion inhibitors.

It furthermore concerns articles based on polymers and of which one of the components consists of this composition or premix, as well as the method for preparing these articles which comprise in particular packaging films, packages constructed from sheets and other parts based on polymers.

It also concerns articles in the form of pasty solids based on structuring agents and of which one of the components consists of the said composition or premix.

It finally concerns the use of the abovementioned composition and articles for the protection of metal parts against corrosion.

The use of volatile corrosion inhibitors is known when metal parts which are sensitive to corrosion are to be protected, in particular those which are made of mild steel with a low carbon content and which, once machined, are despatched as they are to their destination by maritime container with a view to their being finished on site, in particular by painting. The risks of corrosion are then considerable, especially when the parts in question are dispatched to hot and humid areas.

Volatile corrosion inhibitors offer very good protection against corrosion under these

conditions and have the advantage of making it possible to avoid having to use conventional techniques for protecting metal parts; these conventional techniques consist of applying paints, varnishes, plastics, waxes, greases and oils which have to be removed before finishing on site, which leads to additional costs and pollution.

5

Volatile corrosion inhibitors, generally denoted by VCI, employ additives of which the vapour pressure may be considered appreciable at the temperature of use (for example of the order of  $10^{-5}$  to  $10^{-1}$  mm Hg at 20°C) and which are capable of inhibiting the corrosion of metals.

10

These VCIs act by virtue of the fact that they are conveyed in vapour form to the metal surface to be protected, to be absorbed thereon or even dissolved in any condensation water.

15

Products are also known which are classified in a wider sense as VCIs by the fact that one of their reaction products has an adequate vapour pressure. Accordingly, for example, sodium nitrite, in the presence of ammonium ions, can form ammonium nitrite which is relatively volatile. The original sodium nitrite is then considered as a VCI.

20

The use of a mixture of different products classified in a wider sense as VCIs in an inert liquid vehicle is recommended in order to obtain an optimum anticorrosive effect whatever the composition of the material to be protected (BE 702592).

25

When the metal parts to be protected are packaged inside films, the VCIs are incorporated in the material constituting these films, and given that these films may be situated in direct contact with the surface of the products to be protected, corrosion inhibitors acting by contact are also incorporated in the mass constituting these films.

30

The advantages of this protective technique by means of packaging in a film containing VCIs, lie in its great ease of application and the overall protection provided, given that the vapours penetrate into the most inaccessible places of parts with complex forms without it being necessary to resort to cleaning or previous preparation, any de-

protection operation and any pollution being moreover eliminated.

It is sometimes necessary to protect against corrosion only portions of large metal parts having a complex geometry. Pasty solids formed by the normal techniques of the polymer industry (moulding, modelling, extrusion) provide metal parts with the necessary localized protection, considerably minimizing costs.

In order to incorporate VCIs in the mass constituting films or other packaging articles which are often based on thermoplastic polymers, it is known to produce direct mixtures of VCI powders with polymers and to form packaging films or solid parts such as sheets directly by extrusion or blowing.

At the extrusion temperature, which is approximately 160°C for low density polyethylene and 240°C for polypropylene, VCIs have an extremely high volatility which leads, in the case of the manufacture of a film, to the appearance of a high porosity and a high risk of degradation and/or decomposition with elimination of at least part of the VCIs. The efficiency of such films from the anticorrosion point of view is thus greatly reduced following the loss of active materials.

In order to overcome this disadvantage, i.e. in order to limit the loss of VCI during the actual preparation of the finished articles, it has been proposed to use premixes containing VCIs, i.e. concentrates of active material dispersed in supports such as polymers, solvents and plasticizers. Premixes based on polymers (Patent BR-A-9001035) have the general advantage of being homogeneous and easy to handle ; these premixes are then incorporated in the polymers with a view to preparing packaging articles.

Given however, that the temperatures employed when premixes are prepared are often above 150°C, at least partial degradation of the said premixes is observed and thus, as an example, it is noted that dicyclohexylamine nitrite, mixed and extruded with polyethylene at 160°C, results in granules of premix which have a dark yellow coloration, characteristic of a high degree of degradation i.e. a loss of activity.

In order to prevent this excessive degradation by heat, it has been proposed to use liquid premixes, based on oil, which do not need high temperatures during their manufacture (patent US-A-4 913 874).

5

However, given that VCIs are not frequently soluble in these oily media, a heterogeneity of the premix results, as well as the appearance of difficulties due to local excess or reduced concentrations when they are subsequently incorporated in polymers from which the final articles are made.

10

It has also been proposed to overcome this disadvantage by using liquid premixes in the form of solvent-containing or oily solutions containing VCIs, premixes which are not incorporated during extrusion but are applied onto these films by spraying, forming in this way, after the evaporation of the solvent, either a powdered VCI layer (patent DE 3 417 149 A1), or an oily layer containing the VCIs (patent GB 2 188 274 A).

15

The disadvantage of these premixes lies in the fact that the VCIs are not imprisoned in a matrix to give a slow release, so that the protection obtained is of short duration. In addition, the adhesion of the layers deposited on the articles is low and leads to losses during handling and the need to clean the parts which have to be protected, which is precisely what one wishes to avoid.

20

The object of the invention is especially to overcome the disadvantages of the previous techniques and to provide compositions based on VCI, responding better to the various practical requirements than those which already exist. Its objective is also to provide finished articles employing at least one composition based on VCI according to the invention.

25

The object of the invention is finally to provide novel uses for these compositions based on VCI, such as the partial and localized protection of certain large metal parts having complex forms.

30

In addition, it is to the credit of the Applicant Company that it has found, following in-depth research, that these objectives were achieved as soon as structuring agents were incorporated in a composition based on volatile corrosion inhibitors, said structuring agents being capable of enabling a premix to be prepared at sufficiently low  
5 temperatures so as to limit to a maximum the release and/or degradation of VCIs during this preparation.

Consequently, the object of the invention is the use of a composition or premix based on volatile corrosion inhibitors which includes, in order to limit to a maximum the release  
10 and/or degradation of VCIs when the composition or premix is formed, either an effective quantity of a structuring agent, consisting of at least one solid or pasty substance of which the melting point is 40 to 110°C, preferably from 50 to 90°C, or a liquid substance capable of forming, when mixed with a mineral filler, a pasty or solid whole.

15 According to one advantageous embodiment, in the use according to the invention, the composition comprises 1 to 90%, preferably 20 to 60% by weight of at least one volatile corrosion inhibitor and 10 to 99%, preferably 40 to 80%, of at least one of the structuring agents defined above.

20 According to another advantageous embodiment, in the use according to the invention, the composition includes at least one structuring agent chosen from the group of those comprising solid or pasty aliphatic and/or resinous compounds with a low melting point of between 40 and 110°C, preferably between 50 and 90°C.

25 According to another advantageous embodiment of the use according to the invention, the structuring agent of the composition is chosen from the group comprising linear and/or only slightly branched mono- or polyfunctional aliphatic organic compounds with hydrocarbon chains having at least 10 carbon atoms, including in particular:

30 - saturated or unsaturated, possibly oxidized, mono- or dicarboxylic acids, their esters and their salts,

- phosphoric, sulfonic and phosphonic acids, their esters with alcohols and their salts of alkali metals, alkaline earths, zinc, aluminium and/or organic amines,

5 - cyclic or acyclic compounds of the group comprising lactones, ketones, aldehydes, amides and acetals,

- cyclic or acyclic, possibly polyalkoxylated, primary or secondary higher alcohols with a hydrocarbon chain having at least 10 carbon atoms,

10

- linear and/or only slightly branched aliphatic hydrocarbons, in particular paraffins and isoparaffins,

- polyolefins and their copolymers with low molecular masses of 3000 to 20000 g/mole,

15

- polyglycols, in particular polyethyleneglycols with a molecular mass of 2000 to 10000 g/mole.

20

According to another advantageous embodiment of the use according to the invention, the structuring agent of the composition is chosen from the group comprising resinous compounds having a polymeric and/or cyclic structure and which may contain aromatic derivatives and cyclic terpenes in a minor proportion.

25

According to another advantageous embodiment of the use according to the invention, the structuring agent of the composition is chosen from the group of those identified in Table A below and of which some are waxes of natural or synthetic origin.

30

TABLE A

Origin of structuring agent	Principal chemical nature of structuring agent	Name of structuring agent	Melting point (°C)	Density at 25°C ASTM D 1298	Penetration index at 25°C ASTM D1321
Natural	Ester (myricyl cirotate)	Carnauba wax	83-86	0.995	--
	Ester (myricyl palmitate)	Bees wax	62-65	0.955	--
Mineral	Paraffinic hydrocarbons (mixture)	Paraffin wax	50-60	0.900	15
	Isoparaffinic and naphthenic hydrocarbons	Microcrystalline wax	69	0.930	29
	Aliphatic hydrocarbons (mixture)	Petrolatum	70-72	0.910/ 20°C	43-45
Synthetic	Polyethylene	Polyethylene wax	88	0.930	6.5
	Oxidized isoparaffinic hydrocarbons	Oxidized microcrystalline wax	85	--	13
	Phosphoric ester of fatty alcohols C <sub>16</sub> /C <sub>18</sub>	-	83-89	0.998	--
	Polyethyleneglycol	Polyethylene-glycol 4000	57-59	1.112/ 99°C	--

The invention also concerns a composition or premix based on volatile corrosion inhibitors, characterized in that it includes an effective quantity of at least one structuring agent consisting of a solid substance of which the melting point is 40 to 110°C, preferably 50 to 90°C, by means of which the release and/or degradation of volatile corrosion inhibitors is limited to a maximum when the composition or premix is formed.

According to one advantageous embodiment, the composition according to the invention

comprises 1 to 90%, preferably 20 to 60% by weight of at least one volatile corrosion inhibitor and 10 to 99%, preferably 40 to 80% of at least one structuring agent consisting of a solid substance of which the melting point is 40 to 110°C, preferably 50 to 90°C.

- 5 According to another advantageous embodiment, the composition according to the invention includes at least one structuring agent chosen from the group of those comprising solid aliphatic and/or resinous compounds with a low melting point of between 40 and 110°C, preferably between 50 and 90°C.
- 10 According to another advantageous embodiment of the composition according to the invention, the solid structuring agent is chosen from the group comprising linear and/or only slightly branched mono- or polyfunctional aliphatic organic compounds with hydrocarbon chains having at least 10 carbon atoms, including in particular:
  - 15 - saturated or unsaturated, possibly oxidized, mono- or dicarboxylic acids, their esters and their salts,
  - phosphoric, sulfonic and phosphonic acids, their esters with alcohols and their salts of alkali metals, alkaline earths, zinc, aluminium and/or organic amines,
  - 20 - cyclic or acyclic compounds of the group comprising lactones, ketones, aldehydes, amides and acetals,
  - cyclic or acyclic, possibly polyalkoxylated, primary or secondary higher alcohols with a hydrocarbon chain having at least 10 carbon atoms,
  - 25 - linear and/or only slightly branched aliphatic hydrocarbons, in particular paraffins and isoparaffins,
  - 30 - polyolefins and their copolymers with low molecular masses of 3000 to 20000 g/mole,
  - polyglycols, in particular polyethyleneglycols with a molecular mass of 2000 to 10000

g/mole.

According to another advantageous embodiment of the composition according to the invention, the solid structuring agent is chosen from the group comprising resinous  
 5 compounds having a polymeric and/or cyclic structure and which may contain, in a minor proportion, aromatic derivatives and cyclic terpenes.

According to another advantageous embodiment, the composition according to the invention and the composition used according to the invention include at least one  
 10 volatile corrosion inhibitor chosen from the group comprising:

- nitrogen-containing derivatives and in particular, on the one hand, aliphatic, aromatic, acyclic or cyclic amines, including dicyclohexylamine, cyclohexylamine, morpholine, diisopropylamine and benzylamine, their organic salts, including  
 15 benzoates, carbamates, laurates, caprylates, succinates or their inorganic salts including nitrites, nitrates, carbonates, phosphates, phosphites and, on the other hand, heterocyclic compounds including imidazole and its derivatives, triazoles and their derivatives, as well as hexamethylenetetramine,
- 20 - oxido nitrogen-containing derivatives including the alkali metal or alkaline earth salts of nitrous acid and
- the benzoic derivatives of these metals such as sodium benzoate.

25 It is possible to include in the composition used according to the invention or in the composition and/or finished articles according to the invention, one or more additives chosen from the group comprising:

- antioxidant agents and/or degradation inhibitors including bisphenol A,  
 30 butylhydroxytoluene, di-tert-butylphosphite, trinonylphenoxyposphite, dilaurylthiodipropionate,

- anti-UV absorbing agents including benzotriazoles, triazines, hydroxybenzophenones, and radical inhibitors including SHAs or Steric Hindrance Amines and HALS or Hindered Amine Light Stabilizers,

5 - external antistatic agents including the phosphoric ethers of ethoxylated alcohols and ethoxylated amine chlorides, or internal antistatic agents including ethoxylated fatty amines, ethoxylated polyols and alkylsulfonates,

10 - external or internal lubricating agents including paraffins, fatty alcohols, fatty acids, esters of fatty acids and alcohols and amides,

- plasticizing agents including dioctylphthalate, tricresylphosphate, the diesters of aliphatic acids,

15 - inorganic pigments including  $\text{PbSO}_4$ ,  $\text{PbCrO}_4$ ,  $\text{CdS}$ ,  $\text{ZnS}$ , and organic pigments including azo, phthalocyanin or anthraquinone derivatives and

- fire retardants including the brominated and chlorinated compounds of phosphorus, the hydrides of compounds of Al, Mg and Zn, as well as epoxy oligomers,

20 - mineral fillers including chalks and carbonates, talcs, clays and silicas.

These additives may also be added only at the moment when the composition is incorporated in the polymer from which the articles according to the invention are manufactured, or in the structuring agent.

These articles are characterized in that at least one of their components consists of a composition according to the invention or in that they use a composition according to the invention, and in that they are prepared, according to a first possibility, from at least one polymer which enters into their constitution to the extent of at least 50% by weight.

The abovementioned polymers which enter into the constitution of packagings and/or

articles to the extent of at least 50% by mass, may be chosen from those of the group comprising:

- polyolefins, including polyethylenes, polypropylene, polybutene and their copolymers  
5 with one or more unsaturated monomers including vinyl acetate, acrylic acid and its esters with alcohols having a short carbon chain,

- polyvinyl chloride and its copolymers, acrylic copolymers and their derivatives, and  
polyamides, polystyrenes, polycarbonates, polyesters, polyurethanes, rubbers including  
10 natural rubber, styrene-butadiene and polychloroprene .

These finished articles, into the constitution of which the composition according to the invention enters, or which use a composition according to the invention, comprise not only flexible or rigid films, which are possibly retractable, but also other elements  
15 including in particular wires, tubes which are possibly formed and sheets which are possibly cellular, from which it is possible to produce packaging including a more or less sealed cavity filled with a confined atmosphere containing VCIs coming from the composition or premix, and it is within this cavity that the metal parts to be protected against corrosion are placed.

20 These packages may consist of single films but also of assemblies of several of the abovementioned elements, these assemblies being produced by employing any suitable method, including stapling, crimping, thermoforming, skin-packing or the manufacture of blisters.

25 The previously mentioned sheets may be obtained from two films according to the invention, while leaving a space between these films, it being possible for this space to be in the form of cells, or a corrugated network obtained from a third film, the assembly having the appearance of a corrugated cardboard.

30 The packages made from the said sheets may have channels for communication between the inside of the cavity delimited by the package and the outside, these channels having

a diameter generally less than a millimetre, allowing in this way only a limited flow of air.

5 The communicating channels in question are established at the time when the packagings including the composition according to the invention are manufactured, or subsequently.

10 According to a second possibility and more precisely in the case where protection of only a portion of the metal part against corrosion is to be ensured, the article concerned by the invention is essentially based on the composition according to the invention or on the composition used according to the invention, including modelling or moulding pastes and mastics, the article thus constituted having, by virtue of its plastic character, the advantage of easy handling, and the possibility of producing at the last moment the form best suited to the geometry of the portion to be protected.

15 It will be recalled that mastics comprise polymers and that the modelling pastes that are free from polymers contain insoluble fillers such as the abovementioned mineral fillers.

20 The method for preparing these articles generally comprises successively a step for preparing a composition or premix according to the invention and a subsequent step during which the premix is incorporated in one of the abovementioned polymers, the actual packagings and articles being obtained, in particular by extrusion or blowing or by injection from the mixture comprising the premix and the polymer.

25 Alternatively, and in the case of pasty premixes not including polymers requiring heating during manufacture, this method may be carried out in a single step, these articles being obtained by mixing operations specific to the use of single- or two-component mastics and pasty solids.

30 The articles in question are used for protecting metal parts sensitive to corrosion during their transport or storage, without a complementary protective treatment being applied to these parts.

The invention will be even better understood with the aid of the following non-limiting examples which concern advantageous embodiments.

5 EXAMPLE 1

With a view to preparing a VCI, 70 g of sodium nitrite, 17.5 g of benzotriazole and 12.5 g of ammonium benzoate were mixed and then micronized in an airjet micronizer to give 100 g of a homogeneous powdered mixture, denoted by 1a, having a mean particle  
10 size of between 1 and 15  $\mu\text{m}$ . This powder constitutes a VCI.

226 g of paraffin wax defined in Table A were melted at 65°C in a heating vessel provided with a rotating and scraping stirrer then 100 g of the powder 1a were incorporated in the molten mass and carefully dispersed.  
15

2 g of anti-UV agent (marketed under the trade name TINUVIN 622 LD by Ciba Geigy) were then added together with 2 g of antioxidant-degradation inhibitor (marketed under the trade name CHIMASSORB 944 LD by Ciba Geigy) and 3 g of yellow colorant Colour Index PY 10401/70.  
20

Dispersion was carried out by stirring at a rate of between 300 to 500 revolutions/minute for 10 minutes.

333 g of the mixture thus obtained, which constituted a premix 1b, were poured, in order to be cooled, onto a laboratory casting table ("écailleuse") kept at 10°C and then cut up into flakes of between 0.5 and 10 mm in size.  
25

300 g of the premix 1b were mixed cold in a homogeneous manner with 5.7 kg of low density polyethylene ( $d = 0.920 \text{ g/cm}^3$  and fluidity index  $\text{FI} = 2 \text{ g/10 minutes}$ ), the mixture being extruded at 140°C in one minute in a single screw extruder-film former, which provided a transparent yellow tubular film,  $90 \pm 10 \mu\text{m}$  thick, denoted by 1c. This film was effective against the corrosion of ferrous metals.  
30

The efficiency of this film from the point of view of protection against corrosion was tested on specimens in the form of mild steel blocks. The test used corresponded to the North American standard FED-STD 101, method 4031B.

5

This method consisted of placing a steel block in a confined atmosphere loaded with VCI released from the film, and then of causing condensation to form on the surface of the block by controlled cooling so as to produce possible oxidation after a set time. The degree of rusting indicated the anticorrosion efficiency of the protective film towards the material constituting the block.

10

On completion of this test it was found that the steel block protected by the film 1c exhibited slight staining over approximately 30% of its surface ; there was thus no corrosion there.

15

The same test was performed as a comparison using a "control" film denoted by 1d. The control film 1d was identical in all respects to the film 1c apart from the fact that it did not contain the VCI identified above. 100 g of the mixture 1a were replaced, during preparation of the premix, by 100 g of mineral filler based on calcium carbonate. On completion of the test, the block protected with the control film 1d was completely attacked, with many pits and rust being observed over 100% of its surface in contact with the confined atmosphere.

20

## EXAMPLE 2

25

With a view to preparing a VCI, 50 g of ammonium benzoate, 25 g of aminotriazole and 25 g of hexamethylenetetramine were mixed and then micronized in an airjet micronizer to give 100 g of a homogeneous powdered mixture, denoted by 2a, having a mean particle size of between 1 and 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

30

235 g of Carnauba wax identified in Table A were melted at 90°C in a heating vessel provided with a rotating and scraping stirrer and 100 g of the powder 2a were

incorporated in the molten mass and carefully dispersed.

Dispersion was carried out by stirring at a rate of between 300 to 600 revolutions/minute for 5 minutes.

5

335 g of the premix 2b thus obtained were poured, in order to be cooled, onto a laboratory casting table kept at 15°C and then cut into flakes of between 0.5 and 10 mm in size.

10 300 g of the premix 2b were mixed cold in a homogeneous manner with 5.1 kg of low density polyethylene ( $d = 0.920 \text{ g/cm}^3$  and fluidity index  $FI = 2 \text{ g/10 minutes}$ ) and 0.6 kg of an ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer (marketed under the trade name ESCORENE ULTRA by Exxon), 0.1 g of anti-UV agent (marketed under the trade name TINUVIN 622 LD by Ciba Geigy), 0.1 g of antioxidant-degradation inhibitor (marketed under the  
15 trade name CHIMASSORB 944 LD by Ciba Geigy) and 3 g of a branded yellow colorant Colour Index PY 10401.

The mixture was extruded at 120°C in one minute in a single screw extruder-film former, which provided a transparent yellow tubular film,  $90 \pm 10 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$  thick, denoted by

20 2c.

The efficiency of this film against the corrosion of ferrous metals was demonstrated by means of the test described in example 1.

25 On completion of this test, the steel block protected by the film according to the invention exhibited only slight but acceptable staining over approximately 10% of its surface, whereas the steel block protected by the control film exhibited many pits and rust over 100% of its surface.

30

### EXAMPLE 3

With a view to preparing a VCI, 75 g of benzotriazole, 15 g of tolyltriazole and 10 g of ammonium benzoate were mixed and then micronized in an airjet micronizer to give  
5 100 g of a homogeneous powdered mixture, having a mean particle size of between 1 and 15  $\mu\text{m}$ , denoted by 3a.

230 g of microcrystalline wax identified in Table A were melted at 75°C in a heating vessel provided with a rotating and scraping stirrer, 100 g of the powder 3a were then  
10 incorporated in the molten mass and carefully dispersed.

3 g of green colorant Colour Index PG 7 (azo pigment) were added.

Dispersion was carried out by stirring at a rate of between 300 to 500 revolutions/minute  
15 for 10 minutes.

333 g of the premix 3b thus obtained were poured, in order to be cooled, onto a laboratory casting table kept at 10°C and then cut into flakes of between 0.5 and 10 mm in size.  
20

300 g of the premix 3b were mixed cold in a homogeneous manner with 5.7 kg of low density polyethylene ( $d = 0.920 \text{ g/cm}^3$  and fluidity index  $\text{FI} = 2 \text{ g/10 minutes}$ ), the whole being extruded at 140°C in one minute in a single screw extruder-film former, which provided a transparent green tubular film,  $90 \pm 10 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$  thick, denoted by 3c.  
25

This film was effective against the corrosion of copper-based alloys.

Its efficiency was tested by the thioacetamide test on specimens made of copper of electrolytic purity, according to Swiss standard SN 289 650.  
30

In order to do this, a copper block was placed in a cavity filled with a confined atmosphere having a relative humidity of approximately 75%. This confined atmosphere

was loaded with VCI released from a piece of the film 3c also placed in this cavity, in the presence of thioacetamide liberating sulfur-containing derivatives. On completion of the test a visual examination was made of the corrosion on the surface of the block. The degree of degradation indicated the anticorrosion efficiency of the protective film towards the copper constituting the block.

After 48 hours of test, the copper block protected by a 160 cm<sup>2</sup> cutting from the film 3c exhibited a slight change of colour over approximately 10% of the surface, this consisting of a golden tint on the periphery of the block which showed that there was no corrosion.

The same test was carried out as a comparison, using a "control" film 3d. This consisted of a film identical to 3c, apart from the fact that it did not contain a VCI, 100 g of the mixture 3a being replaced, during preparation of the premix, by 100 g of mineral filler based on calcium carbonate.

On completion of the test, the block protected by the control film 3d exhibited a very considerable change in colour over 100% of its surface in contact with the confined atmosphere, this consisting of an intense golden to reddish tint which indicated considerable corrosion.

#### EXAMPLE 4

With a view to preparing a VCI, 50 g of ammonium benzoate, 25 g of benzotriazole and 25 g of dicyclohexylamine o-nitrobenzoate were mixed and then micronized in an airjet micronizer to give 100 g of a homogeneous powdered mixture, denoted by 4a, having a mean particle size of between 1 and 15 µm.

226 g of beeswax identified in Table A were melted at 70°C in a heating vessel provided with a rotating and scraping stirrer and 100 g of the powder 4a were then incorporated in the molten mass and carefully dispersed.

2 g of anti-UV agent (marketed under the trade name TINUVIN 622 LD by Ciba Geigy) were then added together with 2 g of silver antioxidant-degradation inhibitor (marketed under the trade name CHIMASSORB 944 LD by Ciba Geigy).

- 5 Dispersion was carried out by stirring at a rate of between 300 to 500 revolutions/minute for 10 minutes.

330 g of the premix 4b thus obtained were poured, in order to be cooled, onto a laboratory casting table kept at 10°C and then cut into flakes of between 0.5 and 10 mm  
10 in size.

300 g of the premix 4b in the form of flakes were mixed cold in a homogeneous manner with 5.7 kg of low density polyethylene ( $d = 0.925 \text{ g/cm}^3$  and fluidity index  $FI = 20 \text{ g/10 minutes}$ ), the mixture thus obtained being injected at 160°C into the mould, cooled to  
15 40°C, of a machine of the type of the Battenfeld Plus 250 marketed by the Battenfeld Company. Small sheets denoted by 4c were obtained in this way; they were colourless, translucent and  $50 \times 60 \times 2 \text{ mm}$  in size, used for the anticorrosion protection of silver.

These small sheets were packaged in a film of neutral polyethylene together with a piece  
20 of silver, for example a piece of jewellery to be protected. By virtue of the VCI which was released from the small sheets 4c, blackening of the silver, characteristic of the ageing of this material, was prevented.

#### EXAMPLE 5

25

With a view to preparing a VCI, 45 g of benzotriazole, 45 g of ammonium benzoate and 10 g of potassium sorbate were mixed and then micronized in an airjet micronizer to give 100 g of a homogeneous powdered mixture, denoted by 5a, having a mean particle size of between 1 and 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

30

226 g of the phosphoric ester of  $\text{C}_{16}/\text{C}_{18}$  fatty alcohols identified in Table A were melted at 90°C in a heating vessel provided with a rotating and scraping stirrer and 100 g of the

powder 5a were then incorporated in the molten mass and carefully dispersed.

2 g of anti-UV agent (marketed under the trade name TINUVIN 622 LD by Ciba Geigy) were then added together with 2 g of antioxidant-degradation inhibitor (marketed under the trade name CHIMASSORB 944 LD by Ciba Geigy) and 3 g of blue pigment Colour Index PB 15 (phthalocyanin pigment).

Dispersion was carried out by stirring at a rate of between 300 to 600 revolutions/minute for 5 minutes.

333 g of the premix 5b thus obtained were poured, in order to be cooled, onto a laboratory casting table kept at 15°C and then cut into flakes of between 0.5 and 10 mm in size.

300 g of the premix 5b were mixed cold in a homogeneous manner with 5.7 kg of low density polyethylene ( $d = 0.920 \text{ g/cm}^3$  and fluidity index  $FI = 2 \text{ g/10 minutes}$ ), the mixture thus obtained being extruded at 140°C in one minute in a single screw extruder-film former, which provided a transparent blue tubular packaging film,  $90 \pm 10 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$  thick, denoted by 5c.

By virtue of its VCI content, this film 5c was effective against the corrosion of pieces of aluminium packaged in this film.

The anticorrosion properties of the film 5c were tested on blocks of aluminium alloy, grade 5052 in ISO nomenclature, using a test corresponding to Swiss standard 289 650 which comprised a test with chlorinated agents.

This test consisted of placing an aluminium alloy block acting as a test piece in a confined humid atmosphere loaded with a known quantity of Javel water capable of liberating corrosive gaseous chlorine, in the presence of the packaging film 5c from which vapours of the VCI contained therein were released. The degree of degradation of the piece after having been kept in this atmosphere for 24 hours at a temperature of 40°C

characterized the efficiency of the film 5c against corrosion by chlorine of the material constituting the block.

On completion of the test, namely after 24 hours, the surface of the aluminium block  
5 protected by a 160 cm<sup>2</sup> cutting of the film 5c did not exhibit any colour change or any tarnishing.

The same test was performed as a comparison using a "control" film 5d. This consisted  
10 of a film identical in all respects to the film 5c, apart from the fact that it did not contain a VCI. 100 g of the mixture 5a were in point of fact replaced, during manufacture of the premix substituting the premix 5b, by 100 g of a totally different mineral filler based on calcium carbonate which was ineffective in the desired application.

At the end of the same test time, the block protected by the control film 5d exhibited  
15 white pits and tarnishing over the entire surface in contact with the confined atmosphere.

#### EXAMPLE 6

With a view to preparing a VCI, 300 g of the premix 1b according to example 1 were  
20 mixed cold in a homogeneous manner with 5.7 kg of low density polyethylene ( $d = 0.920 \text{ g/cm}^3$  and fluidity index  $FI = 2 \text{ g/10 minutes}$ ), and the whole was extruded at 140°C in one minute in a single screw extruder-film former, which provided a transparent yellow-coloured tubular film,  $150 \pm 10 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$  thick.

25 This film was drawn with a draw factor of 2.5 in the two orthogonal directions of the plane, before being cooled with a view to its subsequent use as a packaging film for the protection of ferrous metals against corrosion. It was denoted by 6c.

300 g of the premix 1b were mixed cold in a homogeneous manner with 5.7 kg of an  
30 ethylene/propylene copolymer having 5% ethylene, ( $d=0.895 \text{ g/cm}^3$  and fluidity index  $FI=4 \text{ g/10 minutes}$  - value at 230°C) and the whole was extruded through three flat dies arranged, as described in French patent FR 2 142 752, in one minute in a single screw

extruder at 180°C, which made it possible to obtain a yellow cellular sheet having the constitution of corrugated cardboard, having a total thickness of 3.5 mm and a mass per unit area of 800 g/m<sup>2</sup>. This sheet was effective against the corrosion of ferrous metals.

5 It was subjected to a conventional surface treatment of the corona type (treatment by gas plasma) on both faces so as to facilitate subsequent gluing. It was then coated with an adhesive which was solid at ambient temperature, based on an ethylene/acrylic ester copolymer (acrylic ester content of 15%, fluidity index FI=4 g/10 minutes).

10 This sheet was denoted by 6d.

A package or packaging for metal parts sensitive to corrosion was produced by the thermoforming technique and in the manner indicated above from the film 6c and the sheet 6d.

15 The sheet 6d was provided with an assembly of holes by means of a multi-hole piercing device.

20 The holes thus obtained, having a conical form, had a diameter of less than 1 mm and were spaced apart by approximately 1 cm.

A metal part was positioned on the sheet 6d, placed in a skin-packing machine with the trade name MECASKIN 53M, marketed by the SDMF Company.

25 The film 6c, immobilized in a panel-clamping frame situated above the sheet 6d, was heated for 12 seconds at 90-95°C with the aid of radiant panels. Once slackened and then re-tensioned it was pressed against and moulded onto the part to be protected, placed on the sheet 6d, with the aid of a partial vacuum of 680 to 720 mm Hg, applied for approximately 5 seconds.

30 The vacuum penetrated between the two materials 6c and 6d through the holes made in the sheet 6d. During this operation, the film 6c and the sheet 6d were glued onto one

contact surface.

The cavity thus formed in which the metal parts were housed, contained VCI vapours released from the film and the sheet, even though this cavity communicated with the outside atmosphere via the holes included in the sheet. The escape of inhibitors from inside the cavity was limited to a considerable extent by virtue of the airlock effect provided by the cellular structure of the sheet. The packaging assembly was effective for a prolonged period of storage of the metal part for two years.

#### EXAMPLE 7

With a view to preparing a VCI, 150 g of paraffin wax and 150 g of petrolatum wax, defined in Table A, were melted and mixed at 70°C in a heating vessel, provided with a rotating and scraping stirrer.

150 g of naphthenic oil (marketed under the trade name NYTEX 810 by Nynas, having a density of 0.901 at 15°C and a refractive index of 1.493) were then added and incorporated in the mixture of molten waxes in order to obtain a clear homogeneous viscous liquid having a dark brown colour.

The following were incorporated and carefully dispersed in this molten mass, with stirring varying progressively from 500 to 1500 revolutions/minute for 45 minutes: 300 g of chalk (marketed under the trade name OMYA BL by Omya SA, having a density of 2.7 and a mean particle size of 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ), 100 g of kaolin (marketed under the trade name SPESWHITE by EEC International, having a density of 2.6, a mean particle size of 2  $\mu\text{m}$  and an oil absorption value of 48 ml/100 g) and 100 g of micronized talc (marketed under the trade name "TALC 10M2" by Luzenac Talcs, having a density of 2.78, a mean particle size of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  and an oil absorption value of 48 ml/100 g). The temperature was held at 65°C.

950 g of a smooth fluid beige-coloured paste were obtained, which constituted the mixture [7a].

50 g of the premix [1b], described in example 1, were incorporated and then dispersed in this paste, kept at 65°C, by moderate stirring at between 300 and 1000 revolutions/minute, for 10 minutes.

5

The 1000 g of pasty mixture thus obtained were then left to cool for 15 minutes with gentle stirring at approximately 300 revolutions/minute at ambient temperature.

10 This beige-yellow coloured pasty mixture, which constituted a VCI which could be modelled, was denoted by [7c]. It was effective against the corrosion of ferrous metals.

The volatile anticorrosion efficiency of this VCI modelling paste [7c] was tested on mild steel specimens in the form of blocks. The tests used corresponded to the North American standard FED-STD 101, method 4031B, described in example 1.

15

On completion of this test, it was found that the steel block protected by the corrosion inhibiting vapours which were released from 2 g of the VCI paste [7c] did not exhibit any oxidation on its surface.

20 The same test was performed as a comparison using a "control" modelling paste, denoted by [7d] which was identical in every respect to the paste [7c], apart from the fact that it did not contain the VCI identified above [1b]. The 50 g of premix [1b] were replaced in the composition [7d] by 50 g of chalk.

25 On completion of the test, the block protected by the control modelling paste [7d] was completely attacked and many pits and rust were observed over 100% of its surface.

### EXAMPLE 8

30 With a view to preparing a VCI, 300 g of petrolatum wax, identified in table A, were melted at 70°C in a heating vessel provided with a rotating and scraping stirrer.

350 g of chalk identified in example 7 and 300 g of kaolin identified in example 7 were incorporated and dispersed progressively with stirring varying from 500 to 2000 revolutions/minute for 45 minutes.

- 5 950 g of a smooth fluid beige-coloured paste were obtained which constituted the mixture [8a],

50 g of the premix [2b] described in example 2 were incorporated and dispersed carefully in this paste with moderate stirring at between 500 and 1000  
10 revolutions/minute for 10 minutes.

The 1000 g of pasty mixture thus obtained were allowed to cool for 15 minutes with gentle stirring at approximately 300 revolutions/minute at ambient temperature.

- 15 This beige-coloured paste, which constituted a VCI which could be modelled, was denoted by [8c]. It was effective against the corrosion of ferrous metals.

The volatile anticorrosion efficiency of this VCI modelling paste [8c] was tested on mild steel specimens in the form of blocks. The test used corresponded to the North  
20 American standard FED-STD 101, method 4031B, described in example 1.

On completion of this test, it was found that the steel block protected by the corrosion inhibiting vapours, which were evolved from 2 g of the VCI paste [8c] did not exhibit oxidation on its surface.

25

The same test was performed, as a comparison, using a "control" modelling paste, denoted by [8d] which was identical in every respect to the paste [8c], apart from the fact that it did not contain the VCI identified above [2b]. The 50 g of premix [2b] were replaced in composition [8d] by 50 g of chalk.

30

On completion of the test, the block protected by the control modelling paste [8d] was completely attacked and many pits and rust were observed over 100% of its surface.

EXAMPLE 9

150 g of castor oil (marketed by Mosselman and containing 90% ricinoleic acid, with a  
5 refractive index of 1.48 and an iodine value of 90 g I<sub>2</sub>/100 g) were loaded, at ambient  
temperature, into a horizontal mixer of the type with Z-shaped arms, fitted with a double  
envelope enabling the mixture to be heated and cooled.

650 g of chalk identified in example 7 and 150 g of kaolin identified in example 7 were  
10 incorporated and dispersed over 2 hours.

950 g of a smooth natural-coloured non-sticky paste were obtained which constituted the  
mixture [9a].

15 The mixture [9a] was brought to a temperature of 65-70°C and 50 g of the premix [3b],  
described in example 3, were incorporated therein and carefully dispersed for 10  
minutes.

The 1000 g of pasty mixture thus obtained were progressively cooled.

20

This green-coloured paste, which constituted a VCI which could be modelled, was  
designated by [9c]. It was effective against the corrosion of copper-based alloys.

Its volatile anticorrosion efficiency was tested by the thioacetamide test, on electrolytic  
25 purity copper specimens, according to the Swiss standard SN 289 650. The test  
performed was identical to that described in example 3, apart from the fact that the film  
[3c] was replaced by a definite quantity of paste [9c].

On completion of this test, it was found that the copper block protected by 2 g of paste  
30 [9c] exhibited, after 48 hours of test, a slight change in colour over approximately 10%  
of the surface which consisted of a slight golden tint on the periphery of the block, which  
showed that there was no corrosion.

The same test was performed, as a comparison, using a "control" paste, denoted by [9d], which was identical in every respect to the paste [9c] apart from the fact that it did not contain the VCI identified above [3b]. The 50 g of premix [3b] were replaced in the composition [9d] by 50 g of chalk.

On completion of the test, the block protected by the reference modelling paste [9d] exhibited a very considerable change in colour (intense reddish tint) and tarnishing over 100% of its surface exposed to the confined atmosphere.

#### EXAMPLE 10

With a view to preparing a VCI, 400 g of part A of a two-component mastic based on a hydroxylated resin (marketed under the trade name LIDEC A 223 D, Part A by CFPI, having a yellow colour and a density of approximately  $1.47 \text{ g/cm}^3$ ) were loaded into a horizontal mixer of the type with Z-shaped arms and 10 g of powdered mixture [1a] defined in example 1 were incorporated therein and carefully dispersed for 2 hours.

410 g of a yellow-coloured smooth homogeneous paste were obtained which constituted the mixture [10b].

400 g of this paste [10b] were then thoroughly mixed, with a view to cross-linking, with 40 g of Part B (hardener) of the same two-component mastic (part marketed under the trade name LIDEC A 223 D Part B by CFPI, blue in colour, based on isocyanate and having a viscosity of approximately 2000 mPa.s) so as to obtain 400 g of a viscous green-coloured mixture which, after a few hours at 23°C and 50% relative humidity became an elastomer with a Shore hardness of 55-60.

This elastomer, which constituted a cross-linkable VCI, was denoted by [10c] and was effective against the corrosion of ferrous metals.

The volatile anticorrosion efficiency of this VCI elastomer [10c] was tested on mild steel

specimens in the form of blocks. The test used 2 g of elastomer and corresponded to the North American Standard FED-STD 101, method 4031B, described in example 1.

5 On completion of this test, it was found that the steel block protected by the corrosion inhibiting vapours which were evolved by the VCI elastomer [10c] did not exhibit oxidation on its surface.

10 The same test was performed, as a comparison, using a "control" mastic, denoted by [10d], which was identical in every respect to the elastomer [10c], apart from the fact that it did not contain the VCI identified above [1a]. 10 g of the powdered mixture [1a] were replaced in the composition [10d] by 50 g of chalk.

On completion of the test, the block protected by the control mastic [10d] was completely attacked and many pits and rust were observed over 100% of its surface.

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. Packaging article existing either in the form of possibly retractable, flexible or rigid films, or other elements including in particular wires, tubes which are possibly formed,  
5 and sheets which are possibly cellular, from which it is possible to constitute a package, or in the form of pasty solids with a plastic character, at least one of the constituents of this packaging article including:

- 10 - either at least one polymer which enters into its constitution to the extent of at least 50% by weight and a premix based on volatile corrosion inhibitors, the said polymer being chosen from those of the group comprising:
  - 15 - polyolefins, including polyethylenes, polypropylene, polybutene and their copolymers with one or more unsaturated monomers including vinyl acetate, acrylic acid and its esters with alcohols having a short carbon chain,
  - 20 - polyvinyl chloride and its copolymers, acrylic copolymers and their derivatives, and
  - polyamides, polystyrenes, polycarbonates, polyesters, polyurethanes, rubbers including natural rubber, styrene-butadiene and polychloroprene,
- 25 - or at least one insoluble filler chosen from the group comprising mineral fillers including chalks and carbonates, talcs, clays and silicas and a premix based on volatile corrosion inhibitors,

the said premix containing an effective quantity of at least one structuring agent  
30 consisting of a solid or pasty substance, chosen from the group comprising solid or pasty aliphatic and/or resinous compounds with a low melting point of between 40 and 110°C,

preferably between 50 and 90°C, by means of which the release of volatile corrosion inhibitors is limited to a maximum when the composition or premix is formed.

2. Packaging article according to claim 1, characterized in that it consists of single films or of assemblies of several elements, these assemblies being produced by employing any suitable method including stapling, crimping, thermoforming, skin-packing or the manufacture of blisters.

3. Packaging article according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that the premix comprises from 1 to 80%, preferably 20 to 60% by weight of at least one volatile corrosion inhibitor and 20 to 99%, preferably 40 to 80%, of at least one structuring agent consisting of a solid or pasty substance of which the melting point is 40 to 110°C, preferably 50 to 90°C.

4. Packaging article according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that in the premix, the solid or pasty structuring agent is chosen from the group of those comprising linear and/or only slightly branched mono- or polyfunctional aliphatic compounds with hydrocarbon chains having at least 10 carbon atoms.

5. Packaging article according to claim 4, characterized in that the structuring agent is chosen from the group comprising:

- saturated or unsaturated, possibly oxidized, mono- or dicarboxylic acids, their esters and their salts,

- phosphoric, sulfonic and phosphonic acids, their esters with alcohols and their salts of alkali metals, alkaline earths, zinc, aluminium and/or organic amines,

- cyclic or acyclic compounds of the group comprising lactones, ketones, aldehydes, amides and acetals,

- cyclic or acyclic, possibly polyalkoxylated, primary or secondary higher alcohols with a hydrocarbon chain having at least 10 carbon atoms,

- linear and/or only slightly branched aliphatic hydrocarbons, in particular paraffins and isoparaffins,

- polyolefins and their copolymers with low molecular masses of 3000 to 20000 g/mole,

- polyglycols, in particular polyethyleneglycols with a molecular mass of 2000 to 10000 g/mole.

6. Packaging article according to claim 1, characterized in that the structuring agent is chosen from the group comprising resinous compounds having a polymeric and/or cyclic structure and which may contain, in a minor proportion, aromatic derivatives and cyclic terpenes.

7. Packaging article according to any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the structuring agent is chosen from the group of those identified in Table A below and of which some are waxes of natural or synthetic origin:

**TABLE A**

Origin of structuring agent	Principal chemical nature of structuring agent	Name of structuring agent	Melting point (°C)	Density at 25°C ASTM D 1298	Penetration index at 25°C ASTM D1321
Natural	Ester (myricyl cirotate)	Carnauba wax	83-86	0.995	--
	Ester (myricyl palmitate)	Bees wax	62-65	0.955	--
Mineral	Paraffinic hydrocarbons (mixture)	Paraffin wax	50-60	0.900	15
	Isoparaffinic and naphthenic hydrocarbons	Microcrystalline wax	69	0.930	29
	Aliphatic hydrocarbons (mixture)	Petrolatum	70-72	0.910/ 20°C	43-45
Synthetic	Polyethylene	Polyethylene wax	88	0.930	6.5
	Oxidized isoparaffinic hydrocarbons	Oxidized microcrystalline wax	85	--	13
	Phosphoric ester of fatty alcohols C <sub>16</sub> /C <sub>18</sub>	-	83-89	0.998	--
	Polyethyleneglycol	Polyethylene-glycol 4000	57-59	1.112/ 99°C	--

8. Packaging article according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the premix includes at least one volatile corrosion inhibitor chosen from the group comprising:

5 - nitrogen-containing derivatives and in particular, on the one hand, aliphatic, aromatic, acyclic or cyclic amines, including dicyclohexylamine, cyclohexylamine, morpholine, diisopropylamine and benzylamine, their organic salts, including benzoates, carbamates, laurates, caprylates, succinates, or their inorganic salts including nitrites, nitrates, carbonates, phosphates, phosphites and, on the other hand, heterocyclic compounds  
10 including imidazole and its derivatives, triazoles and their derivatives, as well as hexamethylenetetramine,

- oxido nitrogen-containing derivatives including the alkali metal or alkaline earth salts of nitrous acid and

15 - the benzoic derivatives of these metals such as sodium benzoate.

9. Use of the premix such as employed in one of claims 1 to 8 for the production of the packaging article made of polymeric material.

20 10. Use of packaging articles according to one of claims 1 to 8 for the protection of metal parts against corrosion.

## DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Attorney's Docket No. 16721-0024

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled, USE OF A COMPOSITION OR PREMIX BASED ON VOLATILE CORROSION INHIBITORS, COMPOSITION OR PREMIX,

☐ is attached hereto. ARTICLES CONTAINING THIS COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR  
☒ was filed on August 15, 2000 PREPARING THE SAME  
and was amended (if applicable) on \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Application or PCT International Application No. 09/622,448

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used by others in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to the date of this application. I further state that the invention was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to the date of this application. I understand that I have a duty of candor and good faith toward the Patent and Trademark Office, and I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate disclosing subject matter in common with the above-identified specification and having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Country	App. No.	Date of Filing	Priority Claimed Under 35 USC §119
FRANCE	98 01902	17.02.98	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any prior United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each claim of the present application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application No.	Filing Date	Status: patented, pending, abandoned
PCT FR98/02920	30.12.98	

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issuing thereon.

I hereby authorize the U.S. attorneys named herein to accept and follow instructions from **Cabinet Plasseraud**, as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application, without direct communication between the U.S. attorney and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorney named herein will be notified by the undersigned.

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Attorney Docket No.: 16721-0024

Title: USE OF A COMPOSITION OR PREMIX BASED ON VOLATILE CORROSION

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